

find acceptable answers to any problem, that the spiritual needs of humanity must be served, that planning for the future was preferable to lamenting of the failures of the past.

The great sportswriter Grantland Rice could have had Evander Simpson in mind when he wrote the following: "For when the great scorer comes to mark against your name, he writes not that you won or lost but how you played the game."

Evander Simpson played the game with dedication to God and his community. We who are left can only thank a kind providence that placed him along beside us on this highway of life.

I am also pleased this evening to say to this body that I am also placing with this speech a tribute to Evander Simpson read by Miss Carolyn G. Ennis at Mr. Simpson's funeral on April 30, 2000, and that tribute follows my remarks herewith, Mr. Speaker:

A MAN NAMED SIMPSON

(By Carolyn G. Ennis)

And God stepped out on space
And he looked around and said,
I'm lonely, I'll make me an educator.
So God made many teachers and principals.
And the young children were taught.
And the young children learned. And God said, "That's good."
And God said, I'm lonely still. I need a dynamic leader
A man who knows how to look like a banker,
How to act like a gentleman,
How to think like a politician,
And how to work from sunrise to midnight like a homegrown country farmer.
So God made many, many more educators,
But he was lonely still. And God said, "I'll make me an
Excellent educator:
A man with vision, values, agility and versatility;
A professional man and Crusader with a pioneering spirit.
One whom the power of office will not spoil nor kill,
One who has a conscience and a will,
To do the right thing at the right time, the right way.
So God sat down by the side of the river
In a place called Sampson County.
With his head in his hand he thought and thought.
Then God said, "I'll make me an extra-special educator
—A superintendent for schools.
A man for consolidation, accreditation, and integration,
A man for providing sources and resources to develop
The best educational opportunities for all children and
For all teachers in Johnston County;
A man who will know how to "command" from his experience
In the military so others will learn how to march in unity
To the same drumbeat for excellence in education.
So God made this "Educator of Excellence".
And Johnston County, North Carolina, the United States of
America and the entire educational arena of the world
Have never been quite the same, since God created
Mr. Evander S. Simpson, who was and still is an extra-Special, excellent educator. And God said, "That's Good,"

And today, we echo again in fond memory of
Mr. E. S. Simpson
Relections of your life to repeat. That's good

ON SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I first want to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL JOHN T. WEED

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. What I would like to do, Mr. Speaker, is to honor a young man who, 33 years ago on May 14, 1967, was a corpsman in the Navy, fought with the Marines in Vietnam, served his country extremely well, and on that particular date put his own life in danger to save my life while in an operation called "Union" in the northern part of South Vietnam.

That young man, who went to Vietnam in 1966, in November, stayed more than a year and not only served his country well, not only served the Marines very well, but he acted responsibly as an American and was a fine example of this country to that war-torn region and to the people.

That young man is with us today, Mr. Speaker. His name is John T. Weed from Texas. And I wanted to make this statement to salute his effort, his commitment, his courage, his grace, and his skill.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me and for his patience.

I just talked to former Corporal John T. Weed, who is with us today, and the gentleman who took care of our good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), when he was badly wounded in Vietnam as a Marine Corpsman.

But what he said, which the gentleman from Maryland did not say, was that, in fact, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) saved his life twice. The gentleman from Maryland always manages to pass over that when he is talking about John Weed.

I have just had an opportunity to talk to him, and I have to agree with my colleague he is a great American, truly. And he mentioned another thing, and that is that the platoon sergeant, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), was the most stabilizing influence on his life as an 18-year-old trooper in the Marines.

So I wanted to add my two cents worth and add the rest of the story to the story told by the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I appreciate those announcements by my colleagues.

I have been working on Social Security for the last 5 years. I am very concerned that we are putting off tough decisions that are going to mean that we either, in the future, substantially raise social security taxes on workers or we cut benefits.

And we have done that before. In 1977, when we were short of Social Security funds to pay benefits, we both cut benefits and increased taxes. We did that again in 1983, when money was short in the Social Security Trust Fund. We again in that year cut benefits and raised taxes. So some people are suggesting that we add giant IOUs to the Social Security Trust Fund and assume that the Government is going to pay that money back at a later date.

Let me briefly review a pie chart that shows the budget of the United States for this year. As we can see, the bottom green pie is Social Security. It represents 20 percent of the total budget. Defense only represents 18 percent of the total budget. The 12 appropriation bills that we spend most of the year arguing about is even smaller than the Social Security budget, with 19 percent.

If we take all of the entitlement programs, it represents a little over half of the Federal budget. And here is what is projected by the Social Security Administration actuaries. They are suggesting that if we do nothing, social security taxes, taxes to cover our senior programs, will have to increase from the current 15-odd percent up to 40 percent within the next 38 years. That is if we do nothing. Two choices: either taxes are going to substantially be increased or benefits are going to have to be cut by over one-third.

That is why I think it is so appropriate in this presidential election year that we have an articulate discussion on how to save Social Security. I was disturbed last night when AL GORE started criticizing Governor Bush's proposal that he has not even made yet. So demagoguing this issue is not going to help come to a final solution. It is going to jeopardize being able to work together. Look, we are not going to do this unless Republicans and Democrats work together.

Here is a quick snapshot of the bleak future of Social Security. We have a short-term surplus coming in for the next 11 or 12 years on Social Security. After that we reach into somebody else's pocket to come up with the funds. The estimate from the actuaries is \$120 trillion that we are going to be short in terms of our commitment to Social Security over and above what is coming in in taxes.

SHOOTING AT ZOO AND GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome Members back and inform

Members, in case someone was off the planet last week, that Columbine came to the Nation's capital last week here where the Congress sits.

At a traditional kids' fun day at the National Zoo, created by the Congress for kids, seven children were shot. One, an 11-year-old boy, lies at Children's Hospital with a bullet in his head. He was the quintessential innocent victim. Harris "Pappy" Bates is a big baby of a boy, the kind one would expect to find at the zoo on Easter Monday. Very much still a child, a rotund kid who was named Pappy because he looked like a papoose when he was born.

His family had their first access to the press on Sunday. They thanked people for their prayers and they thanked the President for calling. They said they were praying for the 16-year-old suspect who was being held for the shooting. This family, I must say, gives real meaning to Christianity at a time when so many profess Christianity and speak only of vengeance. Pappy's mother said to me that she had always intended to be at the Million Moms March coming up on Mother's Day. She also said she supported gun safety legislation and always has.

Pappy Bates is one of 700 children killed by gunfire in the Nation's capital, children under 19, during the 1990s. But there have been 80,000 children killed by gunfire since 1978. The gun safety bill pending before us is only part of a very complex puzzle. The networks are in the puzzle, cable is in the puzzle, sports is in the puzzle, violent computer games is in the puzzle, and above all parents, who have the primary responsibility for children, are in the puzzle. We have to work to get all pieces on the table, and I want to work with Members on all pieces of the puzzle. But would we leave guns out of this puzzle?

We are so very close, my colleagues.

1900

Who would, after seeing what happened right here under the nose of the Capitol on Easter Monday, even think of leaving a loophole in the gun bill now stalled before us?

For all Americans, the average Americans, indeed 90 percent of Americans, the instant check will work. But according to the data, the 10 percent that we need 24 hours to look at are 20 times more likely to be criminals or people with a mental defect or people who otherwise should not have a gun.

It has been more than a year since the Columbine youth massacre. Not one more week, Mr. Speaker, not one more week after this week should pass, and certainly not after an 11-year-old lies with a bullet in his brain at Children's Hospital right here in the Nation's capital. Not after Columbine, which itself should have been all we needed, if we needed even that. Not after what had happened at the zoo.

I ask Members to come back with a new resolve to do what we almost have done. We are almost there. It has been

difficult. Let us go the rest of the way. Do it for Pappy. But, above all, do it for the children in our districts.

U.S. NEEDS ADMINISTRATION THAT WILL DEAL WITH RUSSIA IN FAIR AND CONSISTENT MANNER ON ARMS CONTROL PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the recess period, I had the occasion of interacting with over 50 senior Russian leaders from the equivalent of our Congress, the State Duma and the Federation Council.

I had the pleasure of meeting them at Columbia University at a conference. I spoke to 25 new Duma deputies at Harvard University and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. And just today, on the other side, we met for an ongoing conference between Senators and House Members and members of the Russian leadership.

The underlying concern expressed by the Russians with America is a lack of confidence in what our real intentions are. They say that oftentimes we will lead them down a path and then undermine what they thought were our ultimate intentions.

That is happening again, Mr. Speaker. We are all happy that the Russian Duma just recently ratified START II, in fact over the break. But, unfortunately, again this administration has led the Russians down a negative road.

Three years ago the administration negotiated substantive changes to the ABM Treaty involving multilateralizing the Treaty and demarcation between theater national missile defense systems.

As required by our Constitution, the administration should have been brought those changes to the Senate for their advice and consent. Repeatedly members of the Senate said, bring them forward, let us look at them and debate them; and repeatedly the administration failed to do that because they knew they did not have the votes to get them passed. So then they convinced the Russians to put those two items on the back of START II so the Senate would have to consider them as a part of the START II protocol issues.

Now we are going to again disappoint the Russians because the administration chose not to have a legitimate debate on those two protocols but rather have the Russians attach them to the START II treaty that they passed in Moscow just several weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, when are we going to learn? To deal with the Russians, we have to be up front, candid, and consistent. The more games that we play, the more underhanded tactics when we cannot get issues resolved according to our Constitution, the more consternation and frustration it causes in our relationship with Russia.

Unfortunately, once again, the Russians will feel that we have let them down and that our word is not good. How tragic it is and how sad it is. We need an administration, Mr. Speaker, who will deal with Russia in a consistent, fair, and uphanded manner, not one that plays games on the arms control process.

TRIBUTE TO JENARD AND GAIL GROSS AND JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jenard and Gail Gross and the Jewish Women International. This is an important evening and an important week as I honor the Jewish Women International organization and my good friends, great Houstonians, great Texans and great Americans, Jenard and Gail Gross.

The Jewish Women International strengthens the lives of women, children, and families through education, advocacy, and action. Jewish Women International focuses on family violence and the emotional health of children on the local, national, and global level.

Jewish Women International spearheads activities to educate the Jewish community about domestic violence. Currently, more than 3,000 rabbis from all branches of Judaism have been alerted to the growing tide of family abuse and have learned how to recognize the signs of abuse in their congregation by reading the Resource Guide for Rabbis on Domestic Violence.

In particular, I would like to honor Gail and Jenard Gross for their unwavering support for Jewish Women International and their efforts involving the Prejudice Awareness Summit.

As we move into the 21st century, clearly the challenge for Americans, with all of our diversity, is to learn to live together in peace, to accept our diversity, to appreciate it, to applaud it. And if there ever are two individuals who applaud and appreciate diversity and live it every day, it is Gail and Jenard Gross.

The Prejudice Awareness Summit is an unprecedented opportunity for teams of students to have a positive interactive learning experience with peers from a variety of ethnic, cultural, racial, and economic backgrounds through one-day workshops on prejudice.

The Prejudice Awareness Summit educates our youth about prejudice by providing a comfortable forum to discuss issues of prejudice. With a thorough knowledge of stereotypes, exposure to powerful speakers, and interactive learning exercises, these students can become leaders in the battle against prejudice.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity today to participate in the President